



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE  
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Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate

**Testimony of Michelle Cruz, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee  
Friday, April 8, 2011**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Michelle Cruz and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony concerning:

**Raised Senate Bill No. 1234, An Act Concerning Nondisclosure of Residential Addresses of Certain Public Officials and Employees (Proposed amendment)**

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) has previously requested to be included amid the list of public officials and employees whose residential addresses are protected from public disclosure. As you review the list of public officials and employees, one commonality exists among the majority of them—all members of the criminal justice community.

Pursuant to subsection (b) of Section C.G.S. § 54-142g, "Criminal justice agency" means any court with criminal jurisdiction, the Department of Motor Vehicles or any other governmental agency created by statute which is authorized by law and engages, in fact, as its principal function in activities constituting the administration of criminal justice, including, but not limited to, organized municipal police departments, the Division of State Police, the Department of Correction, the Court Support Services Division, the Office of Policy and Management, the state's attorneys, assistant state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's attorneys, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Chief Medical Examiner and the Office of the Victim Advocate. "Criminal justice agency" includes any component of a public, noncriminal justice agency if such component is created by statute and is authorized by law and, in fact, engages in activities constituting the administration of criminal justice as its principal function.

The OVA often attends court proceedings to publically advocate for crime victims' rights, which places the employees of the OVA in the direct line of fire. Yet the employees of the OVA are not afforded the same protections as the remaining membership of the criminal justice community. The OVA respectfully requests that the Committee amend the proposal to include any employee of the OVA among the list of public officials and employees whose residential addresses are protected from public disclosure.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Cruz".

Michelle Cruz, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate